THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A data collection system for the creation of two or more objects in a computer system at a location having a processor and memory, the system collects data from the computer or another computer at the location and transmits data to a computer at a remote location, the system having

a central core system comprising a central core system object and a form object and a configuration file, wherein said form object creates the central core system object in said computer memory and which reads said configuration file to execute and delegate commands within the configuration file including the creation of data control objects,

one or more data control objects created by said central core system, wherein all said objects have a common data interface for the exchange of commands and data between objects and a predetermined functional element that has access to a configuration file and one or more functional libraries, wherein a said data control object created includes a transmit object for exchanging data with said computer at said remote location.

2. A data collection system according to claim 1 wherein said data collection system creates an installer object for receiving encoded files from said computer at said remote location and decoding the file and installing the decoded file in a function library for use by one or more objects in said data collection system.

3. A data collection system according to claim 1 wherein said data collection system creates a timer object for storing commands to be executed by other objects a predetermined count from a reference count.

4. A data collection system according to claim 2 and 3 wherein said data collection system creates new objects or updates objects using data supplied by said computer at a remote location.

5. A data collection system according to claim 3 wherein said timer object transmits to said computer at said remote location a signal indicating that said data collection system is able to transmit data to it.

6. A data collection system according to claim 4 wherein said data collection system creates a store object that temporarily stores data in a database and manages said stored data before it is transmitted to said computer at a remote location.

7. A data collection system according to claim 6 wherein said store object bundles data in said data base or provides a predetermined bundle of data to another object or provides a list of bundles or deletes old data including bundles of data.

8. A data collection system according to claim 8 wherein said transmit object transmits bundles of data or lists of data to said computer at a remote location.

9. A data collection system according to claim 4 wherein said data collection system creates a connector object for collecting data from said computer or another computer at said location of the data collection system.

10. A data collection system according to claim 8 wherein said data collected relates to alarms related to said computer or another computer at said location of the data collection system.

11. A data collection system according to claims 1, 7 and 8 said transmit, store and connector objects operate whenever a predetermined period of time has elapsed or a predetermined amount of data has been collected or when requested by said computer at a remote location.

12. A data collection system according to any preceding claim wherein data is exchanged between said computers using HTTP.

13. A data collection system according to any preceding claim wherein data is exchanged between said computers using MSMQ.

14. A data collection system according to any preceding claim wherein data is exchanged between said computers using FTP.

15. A data collection system according to any preceding claim wherein data is exchanged between said computers using SMTP.

16. A data collection system according to any preceding claim wherein data is exchanged between objects using XML commands using Windows COM+.

17. A data collection system according to any preceding claim wherein communication between objects is synchronous or asynchronous.

18. A data collection system according to any preceding claim wherein said common data interface for the exchange of commands and data between objects includes one or more commands for setup, shutdown, error, Ishealthy, Ping, commandXML and ReturnCommandXML.